Sears building not suitable for upper floor apartments

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A new contractor will start work this summer on the upper story apartments in Fort Madison's downtown district as a result of action taken Tuesday.

At the regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council the council approved of Mayor Brad Randolph signing off on a Community Development Block Grant that will trigger the work. The city will serve as a pass-thru for funding from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, but City Manager David Varley said the South East Iowa Regional Planning Commission will administer the project and collect about $54,000 in fees. That agreement will still need to be put in front of the council.

Barker Financial of Iowa City, who was the main financier of the project when it was with the Frantz Group of Cedar Rapids, has taken over as the developer of the project and has purchased the buildings.

Varley said the work was going to focus on the Cattermole building and the Lee County Bank building. The Sears building, which was part of the original project has been left off of the project regarding upper level housing, and it is unknown at this point what work will be done on that building.

City Councilman Mark Lair said he hoped that the developer will at least put money into the facade and exterior features of the Sears building. Mayor Brad Randolph also indicated he would like to see Barker's do something with the first level to keep it viable for the Sears franchise that is still occupying the retail section of the building.

“The state finally recognized our ownership and agreed to contract with them so now they would receive remaining funds earmarked and additional funds of approximately $2.95 million which includes the Cattermole and Lee County buildings. The group hasn't decided what they will do with the Sears building,” Varley said.

“Since this has all kind of changed and went south, the IDEA has asked us to step in. We would agree to be a pass through for the funds. But fortunate,” Lair said.

See CDBG, page 3

Hopper gets co-Player of the Year honor

Cresswell, Conrad get 1st Team nods; 7 others honored

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison area basketball players received several all-conference awards due to their prowess on the hardwood this year.

Highlighting honors for this year was Holy Trinity Catholic High School senior Cory Hopper who was named Southeast Iowa Superconference South co-Player of the Year with Mason Porter of Southeast Iowa Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South.

He moved into the point guard possession in the Crusaders' 10th game when fellow senior Connor Conrad, who was named 1st Team All Conference after only playing in just ten games during the year, went down with a knee injury.

"Sharing with Porter is a big honor because he is one of the best players in the state, let alone the best sophomore in the state," Hopper said. "Winning that award was something that never crossed my mind before the season because I didn't think there was even a chance. I was more focused on the team."

Hopper said he was proud of what the team did this year and how that helped him grow as a player.

"I think we had a pretty good season."

Top spot

HTC's Cory Hopper, above, was named the co-Player of the Year for the Southeast Iowa Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South. Nine other local boys players were honored by the SEISC Superconference-South.

Connor also being one of the best players in this conference, we could've added a few more wins.”

See HONORS, page 4

Local students impress with legislators

I'm a big sports fan. It's a thing. I like to see kids I watched grow up do great things on the court...on the field...on the mat...in the classroom. Not just my own kids, but other kids as well.

I have a junior at Fort Madison High School so I watched kids like Heath Hoenig and Kaleb Cresswell and Amber Dilaver grow up. I watched them in school Christmas concerts, took Girl Scouts on a fishing trip. Watching these kids grow up fills you with a sense of pride. Seeing them reach for their goals and compete with other kids their age tells us our community is doing something right.

Last weekend in Des Moines we had a couple more kids make a lot of us very proud.

McKenna Fehseke, Conrad Hellman, Sabrina Fullhart and Chris Brown were part of an M+Power U Youth Leadership Team that presented scenarios to state legislators on a variety of different topics.

Fehseke was part of the girl scout troop that went fishing. But this was a more grown up Fehseke. Talking to our state leaders about why our schools need more access to mental health therapists, along with Fullhart, having the full attention of the four legislators and room full of Southeast Iowa delegates to a conference. It was very impressive.

Hellman talked about the benefits of looking at different scheduling models at the high school level. They talked about how different scheduling can result in

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City inks CDBG to restart downtown projects
OBITUARIES

ODESSA TOYE MASON LOVINGIER

Odessa Toye Mason Lovingier, 79 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died on December 26, 2016 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She was born April 11, 1937 in Newark, New Jersey, a daughter of Charles and Marie (Johnson) Jones. When she was young, her family moved to Gary, Indiana where she grew up. She worked for 15 years in Juvenile Court, at the Lake County Court House, Gary, Indiana. After moving to Fort Madison, she worked 20 years in the Personnel Department at the Iowa State Penitentiary before retiring in 1997. She enjoyed playing Bingo, horse racing, casinos, watching the Iowa Hawkeyes' play football, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by one son, Lance “Larry” Mason, of Bowling Green, Kentucky; her daughter, Bonnie Lovingier (husband David) Henderson, of Bowling Green, Kentucky; two sisters, Vivian Burton, of Gary, Indiana and Roberta Johnson, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; 7 grandchildren, 1 great granddaughter, and a host of relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Marie Lovingier, and two sons, Willie and Tony.

For her request, her body has been cremated. Her family will greet friends from 1:00 - 2:00 pm Friday, March 10, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Celebrating of her Life will be held at Barr Memorial Chapel. Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for Domestic Abuse, Madison. A Celebrating of her Life will begin at 2:00 pm at the funeral home with Pastor Bill Willis officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Mason Lovingier family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel. Cremination Services website, www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

Boys track coach looks to youth

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Head Coach Erin Brenner is hoping her high school boys track team gels as the season goes on, with some familiar faces and some up-and-coming runners.

Brenner is entering her 3rd year at the helm with the Bloodhounds, who lost of a lot of top runners, but have some strength in the sprints and distance running and also have junior Caleb Gehle who placed at state last year in several wheel chair events.

“I'm hoping to see some of my older boys that have been out before step up this year,” Brenner said. “Aaron Steffensmeier is someone who I can count on for almost any race,” she said.

“Alex Gully will be our No. 1 sprinter, but Shance Redd-Donald and Logan Rashid will be right behind him.”

She said Steffensmeier, a junior, and HTC freshman Matt Hellige will be relied upon for distance running and another HTC freshman will handle the middle distances.

“I'm really looking for some good things from Quentin Schneider,” Brenner said. “I'm also looking forward to seeing some of the younger kids coming from Holy Trinity that are freshmen. And a couple of other kids that are new, I'm excited to see what they can do, just because I haven't worked with them before.”

‘And Caleb Gehle with the chair events. He's definitely doing shot and the wheel chair 100 and 200. He wanted to do the 400 last year but he's in a lot better shape this year so we'll see how that goes.”

Heath Hoenig, Elijah Barnes and Jeremy Link will be handling the throwing this year. Heath Hoenig, Eli- jah Barnes and Jeremy Link will be handling the throwing this year. Alex Gully will be our No. 1 sprinter, but Shance Redd-Donald and Logan Rashid will be right behind him.”

The boys competed in the Dickinson Relays as a tune up for the season on Tuesday night. Results are as follows:

Wheelchair Shot - Caleb Gehle: 15 2”
Shot Put - Heath Hoenig: 35’ 3”
Elijah Barnes: 40’ 9”
4x200 - Alex Gully, Shance Redd-Donald, Logan Rashid, Zander Schweis: 1:45.91
4x800 - Jared Kester, Dayne Cordray, Logan Rashid, Zander Schweis: 4:58.91

The boys track coach looks to youth

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/07/17 - 7:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of Avenue D.

03/07/17 - 9:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kevin Lamond Claville, 31, of Fort Madison at 15th and Avenue H on a charge of driving while suspended. He was cited and released.

03/07/17 - 9:02 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

03/07/17 - 1:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of an injury accident in the 300th Street and Hwy 61.

03/07/17 - 9:05 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 800 block of Avenue A.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/08/17 - 11:56 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 270th Avenue.

03/07/17 - 1:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2100 block of Avenue F.

03/07/17 - 10:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jaydene Monroe Carter, 50, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue E on a charge of 3rd degree harassment. He was released on a promise to appear.

03/08/17 - 3:48 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue F.

03/07/17 - 1:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Mayor wants city to keep close eye on Sears building

Mayor Brad Randolph agreed and asked that Varley keep that an ongoing entity down there. "I want to make sure that's not in jeopardy," Randolph said.

"It's in everyone's interest to have them do that. We'll be coming back with that agreement soon because (Barker) is hoping to get that construction done this year," Varley said.

"BEDA would probably prefer that we contract with the planning commission because they have the experience," Varley said.

In other action:

- the council approved the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget.
- the council approved a change to city code redefining commercial vehicle and parking regulations to minimize large vehicle traffic and parking on city streets, 6-1 with Brian Wright voting no and Kevin Rink was absent.
- the council approved 7-0 a contract with Jones Contracting of West Point to reconstruct 15th Street from Avenue B to Ridgewood Road for $599,757.
- the council approved 7-0 vacating 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th streets south of Avenue P to Hall Towing for market value.

DBGC - Continued from Page 1

nately we will not administer the grant. They've done about 60 to 70 of these grants and there's a lot of paperwork and verify the units are rented to low or moderate income people."

"With regional planning, like they did on a couple other projects, are we going to see them back out on us," Councilman Mark Lair asked Varley.

"I just want to make sure that's not in jeopardy," Randolph said.

"BEDA would probably prefer that we contract with the planning commission because they have the experience," Varley said.

"It's in everyone's interest to have them do that. We'll be coming back with that agreement soon because (Barker) is hoping to get that construction done this year," Varley said.

"I want to make sure that's not in jeopardy," Randolph said.

"But they don't think that building lends itself well to putting housing upstairs so they talked about facade renovation to make it look nice on the outside and focus on the commercial aspect, but they aren't sure what they want to do with the building," Varley said.

"I would want to make sure Barker did everything they could to make sure the people leasing that first floor meet the requirement of the franchise to keep that ongoing entity down there," Randolph said.

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"I would want to make sure Barker did everything they could to make sure the people leasing that first floor meet the requirement of the franchise to keep that ongoing entity down there."

- Brad Randolph, FM mayor

GRRWA

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www.grrwa.com
Head Coach John Hellige said Hopper made a commitment to improving his senior year after averaging 16 points as a junior. Hopper said he rode the bench as a sophomore.

"I knew he had even more to give his senior year, " Hellige said. "He worked very hard this summer and put on about 25 pounds of muscle and didn't miss a single open gym or camp. He took his game to another level for sure."

Hellige said Hopper showed signs of being a dominant player as a junior and as a senior he was a dominant player from start to finish.

"At times as a junior, Cory would blend in during parts of each game, but this year as the point guard he didn't have that option. He was simply amazing. He's a great example to the younger kids. If you put in the time and effort, you will improve. In Cory's case he improved tremendously as a player and a young man."

In addition to Hopper's and Conrad's honors, seniors Bailey Merschman and Nick Pothitakis both earned Honorable Mention All-Conference status for the Crusaders.

Conrad averaged 15 points per game in just 11 contests, two of which he played very sparingly. Pothitakis was the Crusaders' defensive specialist and was always assigned the other team's top scorers. Merschman averaged just under eight points and six rebounds per outing.

"He had a great season... he led us in scoring and he's the best shooter in the conference. Kaleb played well this year and was deserving of that," - Ryan Wilson, FMHS Head coach

1st teamers

At left, FMHS junior Kaleb Cresswell goes up for a shot against Mt. Pleasant in the first half of the season, while at right, Connor Conrad drives against Notre Dame. Both players received 1st team All-Conference selections in their respective conferences.

James Kokjohn was second in the Southeast Conference in rebounding at 8.8 board per game and was fourth in scoring behind Cresswell at 12.0 points per game.

Landon Bentley, Austin Rose, both seniors, and sophomore Logan Rashid, were all named to the honorable mention squad. Rashid averaged 6 points per game, Bentley scored five and Rose just under four points per outing.
HELP WANTED

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has positions available

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Program. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

- Able to pass background check
- At least 16 years of age
- Excellent communication skills with children and adults
- Promote the social and emotional well being of children using patience and care
- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application.

HELP WANTED

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has preschool/pre-kindergarten openings

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has openings available for preschool/pre-kindergarten substitutes. The following qualifications are required:

- College degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education
- Other college degree accepted with completion of the Substitute Authorization Program
- At least 21 years of age
- Able to pass background check
- Ability to have a flexible schedule, on call
- Able to complete training as required by DHS

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100 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $439
All Cuts Boneless
Chuck Roast, Arm Roast, Ribeye Steak, Brisket & Ground Beef

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100 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $477
All Cuts Boneless Except T-Bones
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